

History 105: Historical Foundation of Global Cultures

Prof. Jonathan Skaff

Paper #2: Historical Analysis: Ashoka's Reasons for Converting to Buddhism

Length: 4-5 pages, double-spaced in a 12-point font

Due: Wednesday, April 12

1 hard copy with the grading sheet on the reverse attached

1 electronic copy submitted to D2L Assignment Folder

Topic: research and write a paper a paper that examines the reasons that King Ashoka (r. 268-232 BCE) of India's Mauryan Empire (317-185 BCE) converted to Buddhism.

Pre-writing: Carefully read *Voyages in World History*, Chapter 3 and the supplementary reading on D2L, "Rock and Pillar Edicts of King Piyadasi [Ashoka]." Take notes on the life of Ashoka, his rule over the Mauryan Empire, his conquest of Kalinga and subsequent conversion to Buddhism, and the ideas that he promoted in his rock and pillar edicts.

Brainstorming: Based on your notes, develop a *thesis* about the reasons why Ashoka converted to Buddhism. A good *thesis* should answer a question or questions to explain available evidence. In the case of this paper, why did Ashoka convert to Buddhism? Was he being sincere or just seeking public support for his rule? There are no right or wrong answers to the question. A good paper will defend the thesis with persuasive evidence.

Planning/Organization: Create an outline to organize your ideas. Below is a sample format:

I. Introduction with thesis.

II. Topic 1

III. Topic 2

IV. Etc.

V. Conclusion explaining how you have defended the thesis.

Writing: Write a first draft with an **introduction** that includes your **thesis**. **Defend the thesis** in the **body of the paper** with evidence from the life of Ashoka and his rock and pillar edicts. Summarize your defense of the thesis in a **conclusion**. In order to write an effective paper, you will need to support your thesis with historical evidence drawn from lectures, the textbook, and the supplementary reading. **No internet sources are allowed!!**

Revision: Revise the first draft at least once to correct typos and change wording and/or organization to convey your ideas clearly.

Citations: The paper should include citations and a works cited page that includes references to the textbook, supplementary reading, and class lectures in the MLA style.

Evaluation: 80% of the grade will be based on content. Grades of A will be awarded to papers that persuasively defend a thesis based on evidence from the readings and lectures. The other 20% will be based upon grammar and word usage (4%), spelling, capitalization and punctuation (4%), organization (4%), readability (4%), and bibliography and citations in MLA format (4%).

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Quotations or **ideas** that you take from your sources should be acknowledged with properly formatted MLA in-text citations and a works cited page. Failure to acknowledge the source of a quote or an idea is **plagiarism. Flagrant cases of plagiarism may result in a grade of “F” for the class.** To avoid plagiarism:

- A. **Place “quotation marks” around the words of another author.** A good rule of thumb is to use quotation marks when you directly quote 4 or more words in a row.
- B. Always cite **quotations** or **ideas** that you have taken from another author.
- C. **Do not copy another student’s paper.** Allowing another student to copy your paper will be considered a case of academic dishonesty, and will carry the same penalties as plagiarism.

To check for plagiarism, all papers must be submitted to the D2L Paper 2 Assignment Folder.

Grading Sheet

Name _____

Grade _____

Content (80%)

Understanding of Ashoka’s life: Excellent Good Fair Poor
Understanding of the Rock and Pillar Edicts: Excellent Good Fair Poor
Thesis is defended with evidence: Excellent Good Fair Poor

Writing Mechanics and Citations (20%)

Grammar and word usage (4%): Excellent Good Fair Poor
Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (4%): Excellent Good Fair Poor
Organization (4%): Excellent Good Fair Poor
Readability (4%): Excellent Good Fair Poor
MLA Citation format (2%) Excellent Good Fair Poor Missing
MLA Bibliography (2%) Excellent Good Fair Poor Missing

Extra Credit after Writing Paper

Your study skills need improvement (see skills checked below). Earn a 5-point bonus on your grade by visiting Nicholas Collare during office hours on the first floor of the library or on Zoom (MW 5-6, F 2-3) or going to the Learning Center. Nicholas will notify me of your attendance. If you go to the Learning Center, you must submit a note to me.

Note taking on lectures Reading of textbook Supplementary Reading
 Writing analysis Writing mechanics Citations and Bibliography

Correction Symbols Used in Grading Papers

agr	agreement (noun-verb or noun-noun)	run-on	run-on sentence
awk	awkward sentence	sp	wrong spelling
cit	citation needed	trans	poor transition (between sentences or paragraphs)
frag	sentence fragment (usually a sentence that lacks a verb)	tn	wrong verb tense
org	organization problems	unc	unclear phrase, sentence, or paragraph
redun	redundant (using different words to say the same thing more than once)	wf	wrong grammatical form of word
rep	repetitious use of the same word	ww	wrong word usage
		¶	new paragraph needed